

nearly 37% of Cyprus' territory, is particularly disappointing given the number of multilateral organizations—the UN, NATO and the EU—who have a vested interest in this dispute and who should work in concert to bring about a peaceful resolution. While some progress has been made, there is still much work to be done. Greek Cypriots have been evicted from their property, and cultural and religious desecration has been widespread. The Turkish government cannot maintain this occupation and hope to ever achieve membership in the EU.

Respect for international law and calls for self-representation must be answered with regard to Cyprus. Turkey must live up to its international responsibilities and return all of Cyprus to the Cypriots. Throughout my tenure in Congress, I have supported a variety of initiatives in support of this outcome including sending letters to President Obama and Secretary Clinton applauding the administration's commitment to exercise U.S. leadership in the negotiation for a just solution on Cyprus. We agree that a solution to the Cyprus problem should result in a single, sovereign country within a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation. 38 years of discord is long enough; Cypriots deserve a government for them and by them.

Since his election in February 2008, President Demetris Christofias has followed through on his promise to make the solution of the Cyprus problem his top priority and principal concern. In September of 2008, he embarked on

negotiations with the then-leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mr. Mehmet Ali Talat, under the auspices of the United Nations with U.S. support. He also continued these negotiations with the new leader of the Turkish Cypriot community, Mr. Dervis Eroglu.

Unfortunately, despite these negotiations, Turkey has stepped up its efforts to illegally obtain natural resources like oil and natural gas from the Republic of Cyprus' sovereign territory. Furthermore, Turkey's threat of possible annexation of northern Cyprus and Turkey's refusal to be a part of any EU discussion, communication, or policymaking while Cyprus holds the EU presidency does nothing to facilitate progress.

The solution must reunite the island and safeguard the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all Cypriots and the withdrawal of Turkish forces from Cyprus.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR.
ROBERT EARL PRICE, SR.

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dr. Robert Earl Price, Sr., the late pastor of the New Mount Zion Baptist Church of Dallas.

Dr. Price dedicated more than 42 years of his life to his congregation before he passed away at the age of 80.

Dr. Price was born in Smithville, Texas, where he grew up working with local pastors in spreading their ministry. Dr. Price later settled in Dallas with his wife, and went on to have three children, whom he loved tremendously. While he was devoted primarily to his church, Dr. Price spent time with a number of groups such as the NAACP and Dallas Museum of Art, contributing to the betterment of his community.

Dr. Price was a vibrant leader who was well respected within the church and Dallas, and credited with expanding the church's services and bolstering their ranks. The New Mount Zion Baptist Church grew to be a pillar of the community under the leadership and direction of Dr. Price. The church now houses a robust food bank, a day care that now serves nearly 110 families, and a credit union for local residents. Dr. Price provided spiritual guidance and inspired his congregants to strive to bring about positive social change.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Price led with the utmost integrity in his work. He prided himself on his faith, and others often looked to Dr. Price for spiritual guidance. It comes as a great loss to the community to hear of his passing, however his invaluable contributions have gone far from unnoticed. I hope his friends, loved ones, and congregants can take comfort in the good he did.